

DODGED "OPEN DOOR" POLICY

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH EXECUTIVE RULE OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE NEXT ON SLATE WHEN MR. GRIGGS SECURED ADJOURNMENT, THOUGH HALF HOUR OF TIME SET FOR SESSION REMAINED.

Adjournment finesse is growing more in evidence at the sessions of the House, with Representative Griggs as its accomplished and finished exponent. So, too, is the Butting-In-Out-of-Order penchant, which has never before been so obtrusively evident in sessions of the House, for now the order of business is interrupted not only by the introduction of bills at all unseasonable times, but by strange requests of the members with the result of chaos added to confusion.



Writing bills now, not copy, are Messrs. Putnam and McKenzie.

A good valuable half hour yet remained yesterday before the regular hour of adjournment and the "OPEN THE DOOR" resolution of Mr. McKenzie of Putnam was on the calendar next for consideration when Mr. Griggs was ready with his motion to adjourn, and so House Concurrent Resolution No. 24, per force, went over until to-day. The resolution provides that the joint committee appointed to investigate the Internal Improvement Fund, be instructed by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, to hold open sessions to all the citizens of Florida, and that executive sessions are against the spirit of the democratic form of government.

Much light was expected when Mr. Carter's House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 was called.

But Mr. Carter did not shed any; where a glow and effulgence was anticipated only shadows lurked, for he said—and he spoke in a passive way—that he had hoped to be in possession of the information which the House desired, but had up to that time not received it, and therefore requested that the resolution retain its place on the calendar until he had for the House what he wanted.

The wonder is:

"Will he have it to-day?" The much desired name of the attorney whose services are to be employed, at as low a compensation as is practicable, as counsel for the Investigating Committee.

The Teachers' Summer Training Schools bill of Mr. Peoples remains as it was passed Thursday, as the vote yesterday on Mr. Kirkland's motion to reconsider was lost.

There was no loss of discussion, however. Mr. Kirkland read and talked, having the first privilege. He read from the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to show how few teachers attended Summer Normal Schools and went over the list, pointing out that a score or more counties had no teachers represented at the attendance. He was not against giving the teachers this training, but said these training schools ought to be taken to the teachers, for many teachers are unable to pay their way from distant points in the State to the schools, or else make an appropriation to pay their way to the Normal Schools.

Mr. Mathews said, instead of an \$8,000 for the schools it would be better to appropriate \$9,200 or \$200 to each county to have a teacher for the teachers to give them Normal School training.

Mr. Dudley and Mr. DuPont spoke to the non-consideration of the bill. The poor pay to the teachers has been the reason of the training schools not being well attended. Mr. Harvell of Santa Rosa wanted the fares of the teachers paid to the schools.

Senate Bill No. 113, requiring Teachers' Summer Training Schools and making appropriation therefor, was received and passed by a vote of 33 yeas and 12 nays. Mr. Kirkland wished to offer an amendment along the lines suggested by Mr. Harvell, that there be an appropriation to pay for the teachers' fares to these schools, but this did not prevail.

Later, Mr. Harvell introduced a bill for an appropriation to secure better attendance at these training schools. The Bucketshop Bill of Mr. Knight, House Bill No. 93, which came up on its third reading, was passed by 42 yeas, the only dissenting vote being that of Mr. Bradshaw of Hamilton.

House Bill No. 307, to prohibit any person or persons from decoying, inducing or persuading any child or children to leave their home without the consent of parent or guardian, was passed.

House Memorial No. 7, by Mr. Kilgore of Sumter, to the United States Congress, asking for the survey for a canal route across the State by way of St. John River into Withlacoochee River and at some suitable point into the Gulf of Mexico. The memorial was unanimously passed on its third reading.

A Senate resolution for a committee to visit the Florida Coast Line Canal was adopted.

Mr. Willis of Levy said he understood that the last Legislature had refused to extend the time, but that some agreement had been reached between the canal company and the Governor.

Mr. Parkinson thought the committee should visit the

RAILWAY LEGISLATION PENDING.

Senate Committee on Railroads Got Busy and Reported a Few Important Bills.

The Committee on Railroads of the Senate has at last got busy and reported some bills, which appear on the calendar to-day for the first time.

Two of these bills were introduced the second day of the session, being—

Authorizing the Railroad Commissioners to employ special counsel. This bill was reported without recommendation.

Requiring railroad companies and other common carriers to furnish separate accommodations for white and negro passengers. Reported favorably.

Another bill reported by this committee was that introduced the third day of the session, providing for an Assistant Attorney General, fixing salaries, etc.; amended by the committee.

Another, introduced April 16, relative to the power of the Railroad Commission to sue in behalf of individuals; reported favorably.

These reports all bear date of April 23, but do not appear in the Journal until two days later for some reason.

It was on Wednesday, April 24, that Senator Trammell made complaint on the floor of the Senate of the delay in reporting bills, so from the date of the reports it appears that the Committee on Railroads was ahead of the protest of the Senator from the Seventh, but in some way or another they seem to have been side-tracked before being reported in the Journal and getting on the calendar.

It is noticeable in the Journal of this session that many committee reports fail to have dates attached.

Two bills of importance, referred to the Committee on Railroads the second and third days of the session, are not yet on the calendar.

One by Senator Trammell, authorizing the Railroad Commission to inspect railroads and every part thereof; to require that all railroad tracks, rolling stock and all other railroad equipment, be kept in such condition as will render travel over such railroad safe and expeditious; the other by Senator Hudson, of similar nature, the title reading, "relating to the powers and duties of the Railroad Commissioners, with reference to the condition and values of the physical properties and equipments of railroad companies and other common carriers."

Another important bill relating to railroads that has not yet been accorded a place on the calendar, and has been in the hands of the Committee on Railroads for two weeks, "requires common carriers to pay claims for lost or damaged freight and express and overcharges within a given time."

House Bill No. 80, prohibiting the giving of rebates by a common carrier, was passed April 12 and three days later was referred to the Senate Committee on Railroads, where it is still held, two weeks hence.

The Senate seems to be the trying out place for important railroad legislation during this session, but thus far with little result.

The House has two fare-rate bills on the Calendar of Bills on Second Reading. Mr. Long's bill to make the fare two and one-half cents a mile, and that of Mr. Richbourg for a three-cent rate, and, on account of the congestion of the House Calendar, that yesterday contained thirty-eight pages, if their authors do not hasten action the chance for enactment of one or the other is not bright, especially when the gauntlet of the Senate is considered.

canal, owing to the importance of the canal as an inland waterway connecting Miami with the mouth of the St. Johns River and from there on with the inland waterway to New York.

Mr. MacWilliams said that the last Legislature did extend the time and all safeguards had been thrown around the State's interest; that the sole reason of the Governor's veto was that the Legislature had nothing to do with it; that the canal will be cut to the St. Johns River, and that the information of this committee, gained by such a visit, will be relevant only to the consideration of the veto of the Governor, which will come up for consideration of the House.

Mr. MacWilliams was asked:

"Are you not attorney of East Coast Canal Company?" "I am not now," he replied. "I was two years ago. But I am not here to color any facts. I leave my position entirely to the House. I don't wish to be understood as opposing this resolution and I am going to vote for it. I am only on this floor for St. Johns County."

Among the bills introduced were:

By Mr. Duke of Alachua, to appropriate \$24,035.29 for the reimbursement of certain counties for furnishing troops.

House Bill No. 322, by Mr. Knight of Citrus, to create a State Bureau of Immigration. Two hundred copies were ordered printed.

House Bill No. 324, by Mr. Abernethy of Orange, to provide reimbursement of Orange County for providing Florida with State troops.

STATE CHEMIST TALKS OF WORK.

Capt. R. E. Rose, State Chemist, said to a representative of THE SUN, relative to the criticism offered by Senator Humphries in opposing the bill providing for increase of salary to the State Chemist, that it was true that he had been in many places in the State at the same time as the Senator from the Twenty-seventh.

"That proves but one thing," said Captain Rose, "that I was doing my duty. I was traveling about the State looking after matters connected with the office, and although Senator Humphries did not so intend it, I consider that he offered a testimonial to my activity, which is further borne out by the report of the net revenue of my office—\$34,000 for the year."

NOTHING DOING FOR LAKE CITY SCHOOL

HOUSE TURNS DOWN RESOLUTION FOR COMMITTEE TO INSPECT BUILDINGS AND REPORT VALUE FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES—BUCKMAN LAW UPHELD.

The House yesterday refused to pass the concurrent resolution providing for a committee to visit Lake City and report on the value of the State school property there, and also refused to concur in the Senate resolution of similar purpose.

On a vote of 20 yeas and 28 nays, the motion of Mr. Knight of Columbia, that the Senate Concurrent Resolution be substituted for House Concurrent Resolution, was lost.

Mr. Knight said his object was to consider only one resolution, as both were of the same import.

Mr. Mathews of Marion talked against the adoption of the resolution, going back Roman history and speaking of the cloaked figures that came with the dagger hid. That this resolution was a guise to get the State to establish a school at Lake City.

"He's wandering off the subject," said Mr. Rowe, interrupting and speaking of Mr. Mathews, "and he is out of order."

The Speaker maintained the position of Mr. Mathews, who then gave the Legislature of 1905 great credit for what it had done in its stand against the vampires that sucked the blood of the State. He said this resolution was but a move to get another State school at Lake City, and that the whole thing was a ruse.

Mr. Wells of Marion, who said the property belonged in the control of the Board of Education.

Mr. Wartmann said the title to the property lies in the hands of the Board of Education. He then continued and said that it was the most remarkable resolution he had ever seen in the House.

"They (Lake City) speak of a quarter million dollars in property, and yet they will not take it for \$15,000. First they agreed to take back the \$15,000 and the one hundred acres of land they donated when the college was located there, and which by act was to revert to them whenever the college was discontinued, and then they refused it. The Legislature has no business to go down there by committee representation and interfere with the business of the Board of Control. The plan is to get by stealth a State school established there again."

"This Legislature is going on record as investigators. There are two sides to this question. True, Lake City did agree to the transfer. The people of Lake City believed it represented everything except what belonged to the United States Government. This property was built up by enormous expense to the taxpayers of the State of Florida. The purpose of this resolution is to see what this property is worth and report as to whether the property should be used or not, and if the committee says 'No, it's not worth anything to the State,' why, Lake City will bother no one any more."

"It's not so unfortunate for Lake City to lose this property, but it is unfortunate for the State of Florida. I've heard it remarked here that the school had to be removed on account of its moral atmosphere. The man who says that is a malicious falsifier. The people of Lake City realize that there was an effort to throw away valuable property and they have fought it through all the courts in the interest of the State of Florida. To be sure, Lake City has some local pride."

"Are you not for a multiplicity of colleges and schools?" asked Mr. Wilson of Hernando.

"No, I cannot say that I am," replied Mr. Knight.

"Then, why send a committee?"

"To find out what's the best disposition to make of this property."

Mr. Rowe said he introduced the resolution in the best of faith and for the interest of the State. He regretted that the old skeleton had been brought forth once more and shaken again. His purpose, and only purpose, to have the committee go to Lake City was for the State to know the exact status of its property, and he resented the remark of stealth made by Mr. Wartmann.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando said there was but one object in the resolution, and that is the driving in of the entering wedge to disrupt the present method of State schools.

Mr. Bradshaw of Hamilton said that it was a matter entirely of settlement by the Board of Control and that it would be unwise to send a committee there.

The House resolution was not adopted.

The Senate resolution, on motion of Mr. Harvell of Santa Rosa, seconded by Mr. Mathews of Marion, was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 31 yeas and 16 nays.

Thus ended another of many chapters of woe and blasted hopes of the citizens of Lake City and their friends, and once more the Buckman bill has withstood the blow of the hammers.



Senate Committee failed to smoke up favorable report on Senator Jackson's bill.